

1. (Amended) A method of processing an Internet site name comprising:

retrieving a regular expression stored at a Domain Name Server; and

performing a comparison between a first Internet site name and the regular expression at the Domain Name Server to identify an Internet Protocol address for multiple similar site names.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said regular expression has a format $\text{\textasciitilde d}\{10\}$.X.Y where $\text{\textasciitilde d}\{10\}$ represents a string of ten numbers, X represents a sub-level domain and Y represents a top-level domain.$

6. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said regular expression has a format $\text{\textasciitilde }[0-9]^+$.X.Y where $\text{\textasciitilde }[0-9]^+$ represents a string of numbers, X represents a sub-level domain and Y represents a top-level domain.$

7. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said regular expression has a format $\text{\textasciitilde d}\{10\}$.Z where $\text{\textasciitilde d}\{10\}$ represents a string of ten numbers, and Z represents a geographically oriented top-level domain.$

8. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said regular expression has a format $\text{\textasciitilde }[0-9]^+$.Z where $\text{\textasciitilde }[0-9]^+$ represents a string of numbers, and Z represents a geographically oriented top-level domain.$

9. (Amended) An apparatus for processing an Internet site name comprising:

a Domain Name Server adapted to retrieve a regular expression stored therein and perform a comparison between a first Internet site name and the regular expression to identify an Internet Protocol address for multiple similar site names.

10. (Amended) A set of instructions residing in a storage medium, said set of instructions capable of being executed by a processor to implement a method of processing an Internet site name, the method comprising:

retrieving a regular expression stored at a Domain Name Server;

and

performing a comparison between a first Internet site name and the regular expression at the Domain Name Server to identify an Internet Protocol address for multiple similar site names.

14. (Amended) The set of instructions of claim 13 wherein said regular expression has a format $\text{^}\backslash\text{d}\{10\}\text{\$.X.Y}$ where $\text{^}\backslash\text{d}\{10\}\text{\$}$ represents a string of ten numbers, X represents a sub-level domain and Y represents a top-level domain.

15. (Amended) The set of instructions of claim 13 wherein said regular expression has a format $\text{^}[0-9]\text{+}\text{\$.X.Y}$ where $\text{^}[0-9]\text{+}\text{\$}$ represents a string of numbers, X represents a sub-level domain and Y represents a top-level domain.